Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. through 21. (canceled)

22. (new)   A method for displaying an image from a camera on a user's system, the method comprising:

 sending the image to the user's system;

 refreshing the image periodically;

 determining whether to degrade the image, the step of determining whether to degrade the image comprising determining whether the user is active or inactive;

 degrading the image to produce a degraded image in response to a determination that said user is inactive; and

 sending the degraded image to the user's system.

23. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of degrading the image comprises reducing the size of the image.

24. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of degrading the image comprises decreasing resolution of the image.

25. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive comprises determining whether a certain period of time has elapsed.

26. (new)   The method of claim 25, wherein said certain period of time begins when the image was last refreshed.

27. (new)   The method of claim 25, wherein said certain period of time begins when the image was last sent to the user's system.

28. (new)   The method of claim 25, wherein said certain period of time is measured with at least one of a timer or a counter, said certain period of time having a preset value.

29. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive comprises determining whether a window displaying the image is fully visible to the user.

30. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive comprises determining whether the user is using the user's system.

31. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive comprises determining whether a screen saver has been activated on the user's system.

32. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of determining whether the user is active or inactive is performed periodically.

33. (new)   The method of claim 22, further comprising:
        increasing the quality of the degraded image to produce a less-degraded image upon a determination that the user is active; and
        sending said less-degraded image to the user's system.

34. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of refreshing the image is performed more frequently than the step of determining whether to degrade the image.

35. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein the step of determining whether to degrade the image occurs substantially concurrently with a refresh cycle.

36. (new)   The method of claim 22, wherein the degraded image is sent to the user's system upon refresh.

37. (new)   The method of claim 22, further comprising:
        receiving a request from the user to increase the quality of the degraded image;
        increasing the quality of the degraded image to produce a less-degraded image in response to said request; and
        sending said less-degraded image to the user's system.

38. (new)   A method for displaying an image from a camera on a user's system, the method comprising:
        sending the image to the user's system via a network;
        refreshing the image periodically;
        determining whether to degrade the image, the step of determining whether to degrade the image comprising determining whether a certain period of time has elapsed;
        degrading the image to produce a degraded image in response to a determination that said certain period of time has elapsed; and
        sending the degraded image to the user's system via the Internet.

39. (new)   The method of claim 38, wherein the step of determining whether to degrade the image further comprises determining whether the user is active or inactive, wherein said certain period of time begins upon a determination that the user is inactive.

40. (new)   The method of claim 39, further comprising:
        increasing the quality of the degraded image to produce a less-degraded image upon a determination that the user is active; and
        sending said less-degraded image to the user's system.

41. (new)   The method of claim 38, wherein the network is the Internet.

42. (new)   A system for displaying an image for a user, the system comprising:

one or more cameras for capturing an image;

a processor, wherein the one or more cameras are in communication with the processor, the processor being in communication with a user's system; and

a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium being in communication with the processor, the computer readable medium comprising instructions to perform the steps of:

refreshing the image on the user's system periodically,

determining whether to degrade the image, the step of determining whether to degrade the image comprising determining whether the user is active or inactive,

degrading the image to produce a degraded image in response to a determination that said user is inactive, and

sending the image to the user's system.

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached drawing sheets, which include Figs. 1A through 8, replace all original sheets, which likewise included Figs. 1A through 8. Figs. 1A, 1B, 4 through 6, and 8 have undergone no changes except for the conversion of the original, informal hand drawings to formal drawings. Figs. 2, 3, and 7 have also undergone conversion from the original, informal hand drawings to formal drawings. In addition, Figs. 2, 3, and 7 have been amended as follows:

Figure 2 has been amended to include previously omitted item number 230.

Figure 3 has been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error by replacing the word "definion" with the word "definition" in box 328.

Figure 7 has been amended to clarify the relative positioning of boxes 755, 760, 765, and 770 in the depicted flow chart as discussed in the corresponding section of the specification.

Attachment: Replacement sheets